

R E M A R K S

Claims 1, 2, 11 are cancelled. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 10 are amended. Claims 3-10 and 12-16 are now in the application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the examiner's guidance, since claims 1 and 2 were not appealed in applicant's Appeal Brief filed on Dec. 26, 2006, they should have been cancelled. This amendment accomplishes that.

Claims 3 -10 were stated to be allowable if re-written to incorporate the base claims upon which they depended, and all intervening claims. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 10 have been changed to incorporate the limitations of cancelled claim 1, and are now independent claims which applicant believes to be allowable. Claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 ultimately depend upon one of claims 3, 4, and 7, and are therefore believed to be allowable.

Arguments for allowance of claims 12-16 were presented in the appeal brief filed on Dec. 26, 2007 and arguments for allowance of claims 12-16 will be presented in a re-filing of the appeal brief after the claim changes made in this amendment are approved. Therefore, the arguments for allowability of claims 12-16 are not presented herein. This is applicants' best understanding of the examiner's verbal directions as to how to correct the non-compliance of the original appeal brief.

Applicant notes that any amendments or claim cancellations made herein and not substantively discussed above are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention, and not for purposes of overcoming art. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicant's position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such amendments or cancellations not substantively discussed. Furthermore, any remarks made herein with respect to a given claim or amendment are intended only in the context of that specific claim or amendment, and should not be applied to other claims, amendments, or aspects of Applicant's invention.

Applicant specifically reserves the right to prosecute claims of differing and broader scope than those presented herein, in a continuation application.

The Applicants believe that the subject application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited by the Applicants.

In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney or agent at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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